

Agents' how do I get one?

What is an Agent?

An agent is the person who bridges the gap between the talent and the businessmen in show business. In recent years, agents have gotten more influential and powerful as they expand their roles in Hollywood. Agents no longer simply represent actors—now they review screenplays, package huge multi-million dollar projects and arrange financing for movies.

How do I find a legitimate agent or agency?

That best way to get in with a good agency is to have a talent manager. You will want to sign with an agency that is Screen Actors Guild (SAG) franchised—meaning it has a license to operate from the state and has to abide by the union's agency rules and regulations. You not allowed to be legally represented for union work unless the agency is SAG franchised. There are hundreds of agents in the Los Angeles area—from one-person operations to agencies with dozens of agents and staff on hand. A comprehensive list of all Los Angeles agents can be found in the book, "The Agencies," published by Acting World Books (see the "Books, Guides and Trade Papers section for ordering information), or you can get a list of agents directly from SAG. If you live outside of LA call 411 for the closest SAG office closest to your city to request a list of the local talent agencies closest to you.

Are there different kinds of agents to choose from?

There are many different types of agents who handle specific categories of talent.

- **Commercial Agents:** Handle clients for on-camera television commercials.
- **Theatrical Agents:** Handle talent for feature films, television shows and theatre.
- **Print Agents:** Handle clients for magazine and print ads (including billboards), as well as many other modeling assignments (catalogs, etc.).
- **Voiceover Agents:** Handle talent for radio spots and animated programs.

What should my next step be?

If you live in Los Angeles or are soon relocating to the Los Angeles area and need help signing with a top LA based talent agency please contact the ESI NETWORK to schedule a meeting to see if they can assist you.